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THE AWARD FOR VALOR

1. The recognition of valorous deeds is traditional in both official and private endeavors in the United States. The esteem in which the military services hold the Congressional Medal of Honor and other awards for valor is well known, while in civilian life the Carnegie medals enjoy much the same prestige. This principle is not without precedent in business - the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, for instance, uses the Vail Medal to recognize outstanding acts of valor performed by its personnel.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency is not in the business of performing brave deeds; nonetheless, deeds requiring a high order of personal courage have been and will be performed in support of United States intelligence. However, to measure degrees of valor outside the usual military type of situation would be difficult, if not impossible. The clandestine nature of the events usually involved suggests that it would be appropriate to determine only that a significant act of valor has been performed. Therefore, a single valor award is proposed for presentation to CIA personnel or others who perform valorous acts in support of United States intelligence. This decoration will be known as the National Security Cross for Valor.

3. Although this decoration is intended to serve as recognition for Agency personnel, and as such could be established under Agency authority, much of its value will stem from its availability to all associated with the United States intelligence effort. Hence, military persons and others detailed to, assigned to, or associated with CIA will have equal opportunity to qualify. For this reason, establishment of the Cross for Valor should be by Executive Order of the President, which undoubtedly will enhance the prestige of the decoration and make it of greater esteem to those not employed by CIA. This, too, will do much to overcome the security implication that recipients of the Cross for Valor are perforce CIA personnel.

4. It is recommended that:

- a. A valor decoration be established by Executive Order for award to CIA personnel or other persons who perform valorous deeds in behalf of United States intelligence. Authorization for wear on the military uniform should be included in the Executive Order.

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- b. The decoration be known as the National Security Cross for Valor and that it be provided with a distinctive suspension ribbon, ribbon bar, and lapel button consistent with present practice for other United States decorations.
- c. The Heraldic Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, be requested to prepare appropriate designs and models for the above.
- d. The Honor Awards Board prepare and promulgate regulations governing the award of the National Security Cross for Valor.

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